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ON TAP

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ONLY TAP WATER DELIVERS

How often do you think about your tap water? If you're like most, probably not often. And yet, tap water delivers so many things that no other water can deliver.

- It delivers public health.
- It delivers fire protection.
- It delivers economic development.
- It delivers quality of life.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION. In a world where an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne disease, water systems in the U.S. allow us to drink from virtually any public tap with a high assurance of safety.

- A safe water supply is critical to protecting the public health—the first obligation of all water suppliers. Without our modern water systems, diseases such as cholera and dysentery would be part of everyday life.
- In the U.S., water utilities monitor for more than 100 contaminants and must meet close to 90 regulations for water safety and quality. These standards are among the world's most stringent. California requires utilities to meet additional standards.
- Community water supplies are tested daily. Tap water undergoes far more frequent testing than bottled water.

Did you know? Every year water utilities provide customers with a detailed report on the quality of their drinking water. Contact us or visit our website at www.tcwd.ca.gov (go to Information, Water Quality) for TCWD's Annual Water Quality Reports..

FIRE PROTECTION. A well-maintained water system is critical in protecting our community from the ever-present threat of fire.

- Water flowing to fire hydrants and home faucets is transported by the same system of water mains, pumps, and storage tanks.
- A water system providing reliable water at high pressure can be the difference between a manageable fire and an urban inferno.
- The ability to provide water for fire protection heavily influences:
 - new home construction
 - business location decisions
 - insurance rates
- Firefighters are the primary operators of the fire hydrants, but TCWD owns and is responsible for maintaining the hydrants. Maintenance of these hydrants is supported through your water bill.

Did you know? The original reason for building community water systems wasn't to deliver safe drinking water – it was to fight fires!

SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMY. A safe, reliable water supply is central to the economic success of our communities.

- Tap water is critical to the day-to-day operations of existing businesses and to the viability of new commercial enterprises or residential development.
- From food and beverages to toothpastes and perfumes, water is the primary ingredient in hundreds of thousands of everyday products.

- Businesses must take into consideration the availability and quality of water when determining where to locate their offices or manufacturing facilities. The availability of water resources and service therefore has a profound effect on job creation.
- A scarcity of water resources can hold up multi-million dollar developments – commercial or residential – placing a severe strain on local economies.

Did you know? Approximately 300 million gallons of water are needed to produce a single day's supply of U.S. newsprint.

QUALITY OF LIFE. Tap water is more than a convenience; it is central to our everyday lives.

- Any measure of a successful society – low mortality rates, economic diversity, productivity, public safety – is in some way related to access to safe water.
- Tap water is so intricately part of our lives that we can hardly imagine a day without it. Without tap water ...
 - How would we rinse our produce, clean dishes and clothes, water plants and landscapes and wash our cars?
 - Where would we shower?
 - How many businesses would have to suspend operations or relocate entirely?
 - How would our institutions – from hospitals to firehouses to schools – function?

Did you know? Americans tap into about 341 billion gallons of tap water daily. Total water use (both indoor and outdoor) in a typical single-family home is 101 gallons per person, per day, on a national average.

THE VALUE OF WATER SERVICE. We are all beneficiaries of a magnificent network of treatment plants, pump stations and pipes that was handed down to us by generations before. When you consider the critical needs addressed by water service, tap water will always be a

tremendous value. In fact, it has been and will continue to be a bargain. You simply cannot put a price on a service that delivers public health, fire protection, economic development, and quality of life.

The Regular Board Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ December 20, 2006 – Elected a Board President and Vice President.
- ◇ Appointed Committee members and made agency representative assignments.
- ◇ Approved purchases relating to the Influent Flow Equalization Basins Rehabilitation Project.
- ◇ Accepted the Dry Season Water Recovery Project (Dove Canyon, Phase I, Demolition and Rehabilitation).
- ◇ Received the Continuing Disclosure Annual Report for Reassessment District No. 5.
- ◇ Awarded the contract for the Dry Season Water Recovery Project (Dove Canyon, Phase II, Reach 1, Pipeline and Conduit Installation).
- ◇ Approved the Digital Map Project.

ON TAP is published and distributed by TCWD. We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Sharon E. Smith, Editor

TCWD's ON-TAP

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